in any of the Affairs of State, or Government of the *Kingdome*.

That your Majeſt would bee pleaſed to aſſent to the Ordinance of both Houſes of *Parliament*, as it were agreed on by both Houſes, &c.

Ordered by the Honourable Houſe of Commons, That this ſhall be printed and publiſhed through the whole *Kingdome*, by the Conſent of the High Court of *Parliament*.

Joh. Brown Cler. Parl.

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FINIS.

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The humble PETITION

OF

THE MAJOR, ALDERMEN, and *COMMONS* of the Citie of *London* to His *Maieſtie*,

WITH

HIS MAJESTIES Gracious Anſwer thereunto.

SHREWSBURY,
Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie: And by the Aſſignes of JOHN BILL. 1642.

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TO THE KINGS *MOST EXCELLENT* MAJESTIE.

The humble Petition of the Major, Aldermen, and Commons of the Citie of *London*,

Sheweth

THat the Petitioners, Your Majesties most humble and Loyall Subjects, being much pierced with the long and great divisions between Your Majestie and both Your Houses of *Parliament*, and with the sad and bloody effects thereof, both here and in *Ireland*, are yet more deeply wounded by the mis-apprehension which Your Majestie seemeth to entertain of the Love and Loyalty of this Your Citie; as if there were some Cause of feare or suspicion of danger to Your Royall Person, if Your Majestie should return hither; and that this is made the unhappy Barre to that blessed Reconciliation with Your great and most faithfull Councell, for preventing that desolation and destruction which is now most apparently imminent to Your Majestie and all Your Kingdoms.

For satisfaction therefore of Your Majestie, and clearing of the Petitioners Innocency, they most humbly declare, (as formerly they have done) That they are no way conscious of any Disloyalty, but abhorre all thoughts thereof; And that they are resolved to make

good their late solemn Protestation and sacred Vow, made to Almighty God, and with the last drop of their dearest Bloods, to defend and maintain the true reformed Protestant Religion, and according to the duty of their Allegiance, Your Majesties Royall Person, Honour and Estate, (whatsoever is maliciously and most falsely suggested to Your Majestie to the Contrary) as well as the Power and Priviledges of Parliament, and the Lawfull Rights and Liberties of the Subject; and do hereby ingage themselves, their Estates, and all they have to their uttermost Power, to defend and preserve Your Majesty and both Houses of Parliament from all Tumults, Affronts and Violence, with as much Loyalty, Love, and Duty as ever Citizens expressed towards Your Majestie, or any of Your Royall Progenitors, in their greatest Glory.

The Petitioners therefore, upon their bended Knees do most humbly beseech Your Majestie to return to Your Parliament, (accompanied with Your Royall, not Your Martiall attendance;) to the end, that Religion, Laws and Liberties may be setled and secured, and whatsoever is amisse in Church and Common-wealth, reformed by their Advice, according to the fundamentall Constitutions of this Kingdom: and that such a Peace may thereby be obtained, as shall be for the glory of God, the Honour and Happinesse of Your Majestie and Posterity, and the safety and welfare of all Your Loyall Subjects, who (the Petitioners are fully assured, whatsoever is given out to the contrary,) do unanimously desire the Peace herein expressed.

And the Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

His

His Majestie hath graciously considered this *Petition*, and returns this

ANSWER:

THat His Majesty doth not entertain any mis-apprehension of the Love and Loyalty of His City of London: As He hath always expressed a singular regard and esteem of the Affections of that City, and is still desirous to make it His chief place of Residence, and to continue and renew many marks of His favour to it, so He believes much the better and greater part of that His City is full of Love, Duty & Loyalty to his Majesty: And that the Tumults, which heretofore forced His Majesty for His safety to leave that Place, though they were contrived and encouraged by some principall members thereof, (who are since well known, though they are above the reach of Justice) consisted more of desperate Persons of the Suburbs, and the neighbouring Towns, (who were misled too by the cunning and malice of their Seducers,) then of the Inhabitants of that City. He looks on His good Subjects there, as Persons groaning under the same Burthen which doth oppresse His Majesty, and awed by the same Persons

who begat those Tumults, and the same Army which gave Battell to His Majesty. And therefore as no good Subject can more desire from His soul a Compolure of the generall distractions, so no good Citizen can more desire the establishment of the particular Peace and Prosperity of that place, by His Majesties Accesse thither, then His Majesty Himself doth.

But His Majestie desires His good Subjects of London seriously to consider, what confidence His Majestie can have of Security there; whilest the Lawes of the Land are so notoriously despised and trampled under foot, and the wholsome Government of that City (heretofore so famous over all the World) is now submitted to the Arbitrary power of a few desperate persons of no Reputation, but for malice and disloyalty to Him; whilest Armes are taken up not onely without, but against His consent and expresse command, and Collections maliciously made, and Contributions avowed for the maintenance of the Army which hath given Him Battell, and thereon used all possible means Treason and Malice could suggest to them, to have taken His Life from Him, and to have destroyed His Royall Issue; whilest such of His Majesties Subjects, who out of Duty & Affection to His Majestie, and Compassion of their bleeding Country, have laboured for Peace, are reviled, injured and murthered even by the Magistrates of that City, or by their directions. Lastly, what hope His Majestie can have of safety there, whilest Alderman Pennington, their pretended Lord Major, (the principall Au-

thor

thoſe of thoſe Calamities, which ſo neerly threaten the Ruine of that famous City,) Ven, Foulke, and Mainwaring, (all Perſons notoriouſly guilty of Schiſme, and high Treaſon) commit ſuch outrages in oppreſſing, robbing and impriſoning, according to their diſcretion, all ſuch His Majeſties loving Subjects, whom they are pleaſed to ſuſpect but for wiſhing well to His Majeſtie. And His Majeſtie would know whether the Petitioners believe, That the reviling and ſuppreſſing the Book of Common-Prayer, (eſtabliſht in this Church ever ſince the Reformation,) the diſcountenancing and impriſoning Godly, Learned, and painfull Preachers, and the cherishing and countenancing of Brownists, Anabaptists, and all manner of Sectaries, be the way to defend, and maintain the true, reformed, Proteſtant Religion? That to comply with, and aſſiſt perſons who ſo be actually attempted to kill His Majeſtie, and to allow and favour Libells, Paſquills, and ſeditious Sermons againſt His Majeſtie, be to defend His Royall Perſon and Honour, according to the duty of their Allegiance? Whether to impriſon mens Perſons, and to plunder their Houſes, becauſe they will not rebell againſt His Majeſtie, nor aſſiſt thoſe that do? Whether to deſtroy their Property, by taking away the twentieth part of their Eſtates from them, and by the ſame Arbitrary Power to referr to four ſtanders by of their own Faction, to judge what that twentieth part is, be to defend the lawfull Rights and Liberties of the Subject? And if they think theſe Actions to be inſtances of either, whether they

they do not know the persons before named to be guilty of them all? Or whether they think it possible, that Almighty God can bless that City, and preserve it from destruction, whilest persons of such known Guilt and wickedness are defended and justified amongst them, against the power of that Law, by which they can onely subsist?

His Majestie is so farre from suffering Himself to be incensed against the whole City, by the actions of these ill men, though they have hitherto been so prevalent as to make the Affections of the rest of little use to Him, and is so willing to be with them, and to protect them, that the Trade, Wealth, and Glory thereof (so decayed and eclipsed by these pernitious Distractions) may again be the Envy of all forraign Nations. That He doth once more graciously offer His free and generall Pardon to all the Inhabitants of that His City of London, the Suburbs, and City of Westminster, (except the Persons formerly excepted by His Majestie,) if they shall yet return to their Duty, Loyalty and Obedience. And if His good Subjects of that His City of London, shall first solemnly declare, That they will defend the known Laws of the Land, and will submit to, and be governed by no other Rule; If they shall first manifest, by defending themselves, and maintaining their own Rights, Liberties and Interests, and suppressing any force and violence unlawfully raised against those and His Majestie, their Power to defend and preserve Him from all Tumults, Affronts and Violence; Lastly, if they shall apprehend and commit to safe Custody the

Persons

Persons of those four men, who enrich themselves by the spoyl and oppression of His loving Subjects, and the ruine of the City, that His Majestie may proceed against them by the course of Law, as guilty of high Treason, His Majestie will speedily return to them with His Royall, and without His Martiall Attendance, and will use His utmost endeavour, that they may hereafter enjoy all the Blessings of Peace and Plenty, and will no longer expect Obedience from them, then he shall, with all the faculties of His Soul, labour in the preserving and advancing The true reformed Protestant Religion, The Laws of the Land, The Liberty and Propriety of the Subject, and The just Priviledges of Parliament.

If, notwithstanding all this, the Art and Interest of these men can prevaile so far, That they involve more men in their guilt, and draw that His City to sacrifice it's present Happinesse and future Hopes to their Pride, Fury, and Malice, His Majestie shall onely give them this Warning, That whosoever shall henceforward take up Arms without His consent, contribute any Money or Plate, upon what pretence of Authority soever, for maintenance of the Army under the Command of the Earle of Essex, or any other Army in Rebellion against Him, or shall pay Tonnage and Poundage, till the same shall be setled by Act of Parliament, every such Person must expect the severest punishment the Law can inflict, and in the mean time His Majestie shall seize upon any part of his Estate within His Power, for the relief and support of

Him and His Army, raised and maintained for the Defence of His Person, the Laws, and this His Kingdom: And since he denies to His Majestie the duty and benefit of his subjection, by giving assistance to Rebels, which by the known Laws of the Land is high Treason, His Majestie shall likewise deny him the benefit of his Protection, and shall not onely signifie to all His forreign Ministers, That such Person shall receive no advantage by being His Subject, but shall by all other wayes and means proceed against him as a publique Enemy to His Majestie, and this Kingdom.

But His Majestie hopes, and doubts not but His good Subjects of London will call to mind the Acts of their Predecessors, their Duty, Affection, Loyalty and merit towards their Princes, the Renown they have had with all Posterity for, and the Blessings of Heaven which alwayes accompanyed those vertues, and will consider the perpetuall scorn and infamy which unavoydably will follow them and their Children, if infinitely the meaner part in quality, and much the lesser part in number shall be able to alter the Government so admirably established, destroy the Trade so excellently setled, and so waste the wealth so industriously gotten, of that flourishing Citie; And then they will easily gather up the Courage and Resolution to joyn with His Majestie in Defence of that Religion, Law and Liberty, which hitherto hath and onely can make themselves, His Majestie, and His Kingdom happy.

For concurring with the Advice of His Two Houses

Houſes of Parliament, which with reference to the Common-wealth may be as well at this diſtance, as by being at White-hall, His Majeſtie doubts not but His good Subjects of London, well know how far (beyond the example of any of His Predeceſſors) His Majeſtie hath concurred with their advice in paſſing of ſuch Laws, by which He willingly parted with many of His known Rights, for the benefit of His Subjects, which the fundamentall Conſtitutions of this Kingdom did not oblige Him to conſent unto, and hath uſed all poſſible means to beget a right underſtanding between them. And will therefore apply themſelves to thoſe, who by making Juſt, Peaceable and honourable Propoſitions to His Majeſtie, can onely beget that Concurrence.

FINIS.